

## National Science Scholars Program (CFDA No. 84.242)

### I. Legislation

Excellence in Mathematics, Science, and Engineering Act of 1990, repealed P.L. 103-382, Section 391(l) (October 20, 1994).

### II. Funding History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
1991	\$ 976,000
1992	4,500,000
1993	4,464,000
1994	4,464,000
1995	3,303,000
1996	0

### III. Program Goals and Objectives

The purpose of the National Science Scholars Program (NSSP) was to recognize high school student excellence and achievement in the physical, life, and computer sciences, mathematics, and engineering and to provide scholarships to these students to continue their studies in these academic fields at the postsecondary level.

To be eligible to receive a scholarship through the NSSP, the applicant had to be scheduled to graduate from a public or private secondary school or to obtain the equivalent of a certificate of graduation (as recognized by the state in which the student resides) during the school year prior to the one in which the scholarship is to be awarded. Applicants had to have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement in secondary school in physical, life, or computer sciences, mathematics, or engineering.

Each state submitted nominations for at least four applicants from each congressional district ranked in order of priority, at least half of whom had to be female. Initial scholarships were then awarded to two scholars from each congressional district, at least one of whom had to be female. The scholarships were not based on financial need.

Initial scholarships were awarded for the first year of postsecondary study in physical, life, or computer sciences, mathematics, or engineering. A scholarship recipient who maintained eligibility could receive up to four additional scholarship awards in subsequent years in order to complete the undergraduate course of study. The Secretary of Education was authorized to award up to \$5,000 per year to each National Science Scholar. The amount awarded depended upon the level of funds appropriated by the Congress. In any given year, all scholarships were equal except that no student could receive a scholarship in excess of the cost of attendance.

Table 1 presents information on the number and amount of scholarships received between academic years 1991-92 and 1995-96. The table indicates that in the second year of the program, as a result of the growing appropriations level, the average award increased significantly. The average award then fell in later years as more renewal scholars received awards from a fixed or declining appropriations level.

<b>Table 1: Description of NSSP Scholarship</b>				
	<b>Number of Scholarships</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>New</b>	<b>Continuing</b>	<b>Average Award</b>
1991-92 (FY 1991)	797	797	0	\$1,236
1992-93 (FY 1992)	1,625	869	756	\$2,750
1993-94 (FY 1993)	2,400	861	1,539	\$1,860
1994-95 (FY 1994)	3,110	860	2,250	\$1,377
1995-96 (FY 1995)	3,467	863	2,604	\$ 952

Note: The number of scholarships times the average award may not equal the amount appropriated in a given year. In FY 1991, awards exceeded the amount appropriated; FY 1992 funds were used to make up the difference.

The NSSP was recommended for elimination because the Administration felt that sufficient funds were available through the Student Financial Assistance programs and the Byrd Honors Scholarship program to enable talented undergraduates to attend college. Program appropriations ended in FY 1995 and this is a close-out report on the program.

See also Office-Wide Performance Indicators for the Office of Postsecondary Education displayed in the Overview (OPS) to the postsecondary education programs.

#### **IV. Planned Studies**

None.

#### **V. Sources of Information**

Program files.

## **VI. Contacts for Further Information**

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